

A. U. T. C. J. S.

Reading, Pa., U. S. A.  
September 30, 1964

Dear Sisters,

Yesterday God called our dear Sister M. Flavia home to her eternal reward. A fervent religious life and a long illness, patiently borne, had prepared her well; Sister was conscious almost to the end and confidently returned her soul to her Maker.

Sister M. Flavia, nee Helene Goepfert  
Born: September 1, 1882 at Raesfeld, Germany  
Entered: September 6, 1905  
Final Vows: May 13, 1912  
Died: September 29, 1964 in Wedron, Illinois

Sister M. Flavia belonged to the group of valiant pioneers who landed on August 11, 1908 in U. S. A. Of her companions, Sister M. Ferdinande (Germany), Sister M. Antonia, Sister M. Edeltrudis, and Sister M. Salesia are still living. With them she shared the privations but also joys of a difficult beginning and laid by hard work, many sacrifices, fervent prayer, and a joyous religious life the solid foundation of our American Province.

Already in September of the same year Sister began her teaching career and from 1908 to 1940 Sister worked as an able and dedicated teacher in the schools at Lansford, Philadelphia, Northampton, Nazareth, Reading, and Bethlehem. In 1940 she had to submit to a dangerous operation which brought her close to death. She passed the crisis but never fully recovered. Therefore Sister was sent to St. Joseph's Health Resort, Wedron, Illinois, where she was helpful in many ways from 1941 almost until her death. For many years she took care of the sacristy, baked hosts, helped in the sewing room, and gave catechetical instructions to the children of the rural neighborhood who could not attend a Catholic school.

For the past few years her health gradually failed. Sister felt that death was approaching and she prepared beautifully. Periodically she was strengthened by the Anointing of the Sick. Nine months ago she wrote me a touching farewell letter in which she beautifully expressed her love for, and her loyalty and gratitude toward the Congregation and her perfect submission to God's will.

Sister M. Flavia was a real solid Missionary Sister; her great love for obedience, respect, and poverty were outstanding. She was very faithful in her religious duties and assigned work, prayerful and kind. She possessed a fine sense of humor and a childlike simplicity.

We are convinced that her death has given to heaven another saintly M. S. C. and to our Congregation a fervent intercessor. May she, together with our other departed Sisters, pray that the sterling spirit of our pioneer Sisters, their love for poverty, obedience, and dedication may remain with us in a time of unrest and of constant re-appraisal, even of the highest values. We, in turn, shall gratefully remember Sister in our prayers.

Her funeral will be in St. Michael Convent, Reading, on October 2, at 9:00 A.M.

Sincerely yours in Corde Jesu,

Mother M. Elizabeth, M. S. C.